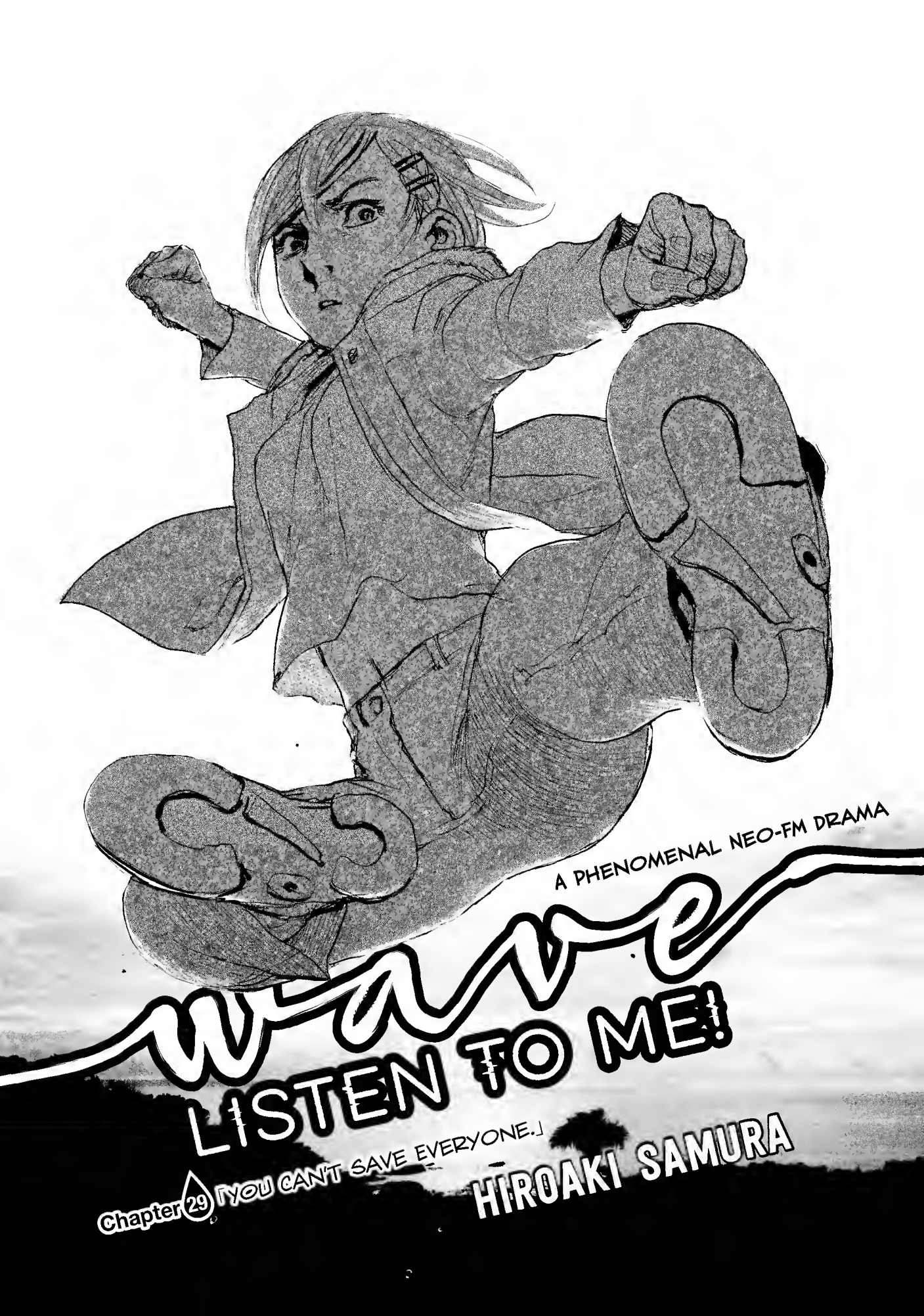
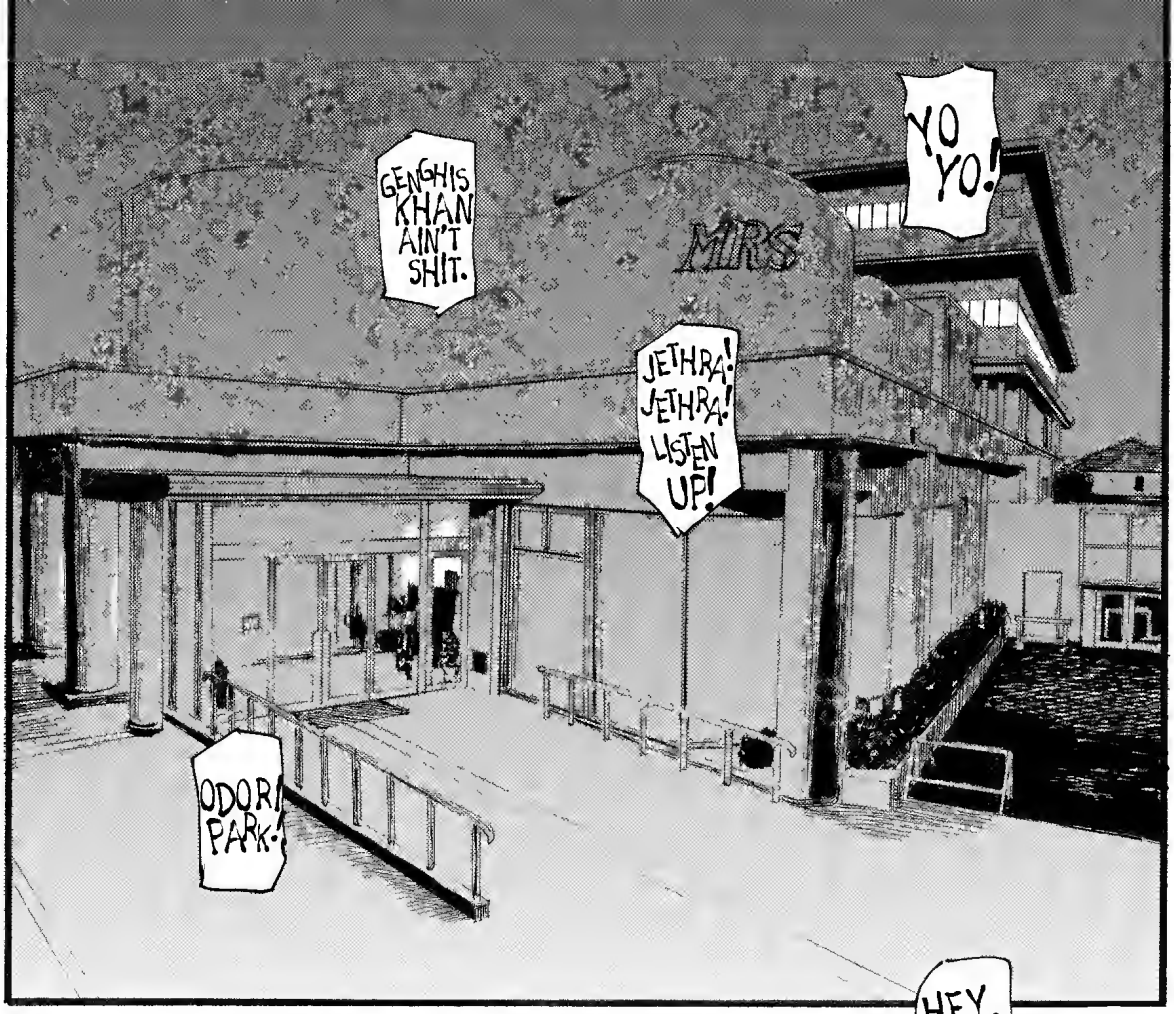
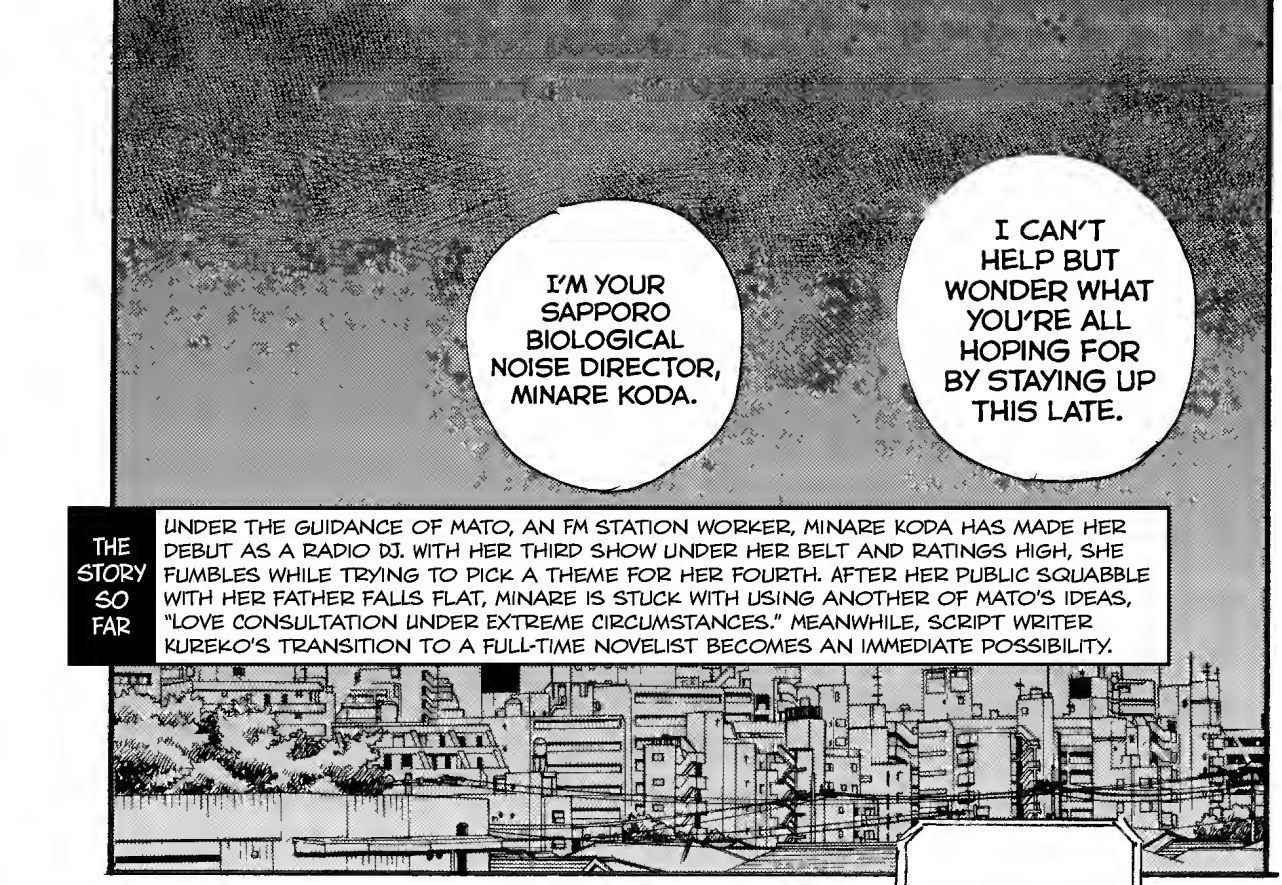

A PHENOMENAL NEO-FM DRAMA
wave
LISTEN TO ME!
Chapter 29 「YOU CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE.」
HIROAKI SAMURA

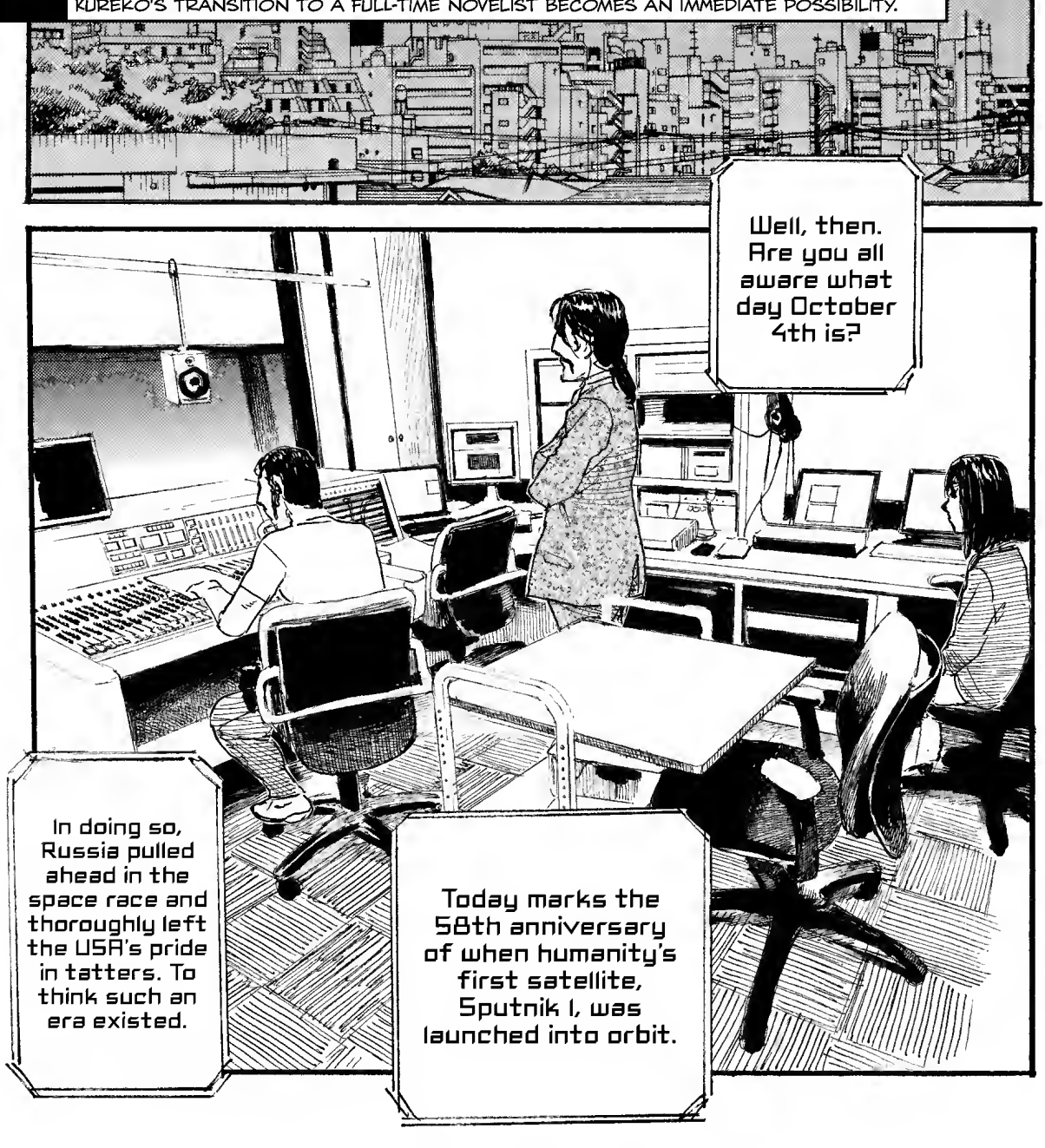
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCES TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, AND PLACES ARE PURELY COINCIDENTAL.




I'M YOUR SAPPORO BIOLOGICAL NOISE DIRECTOR, MINARE KODA.
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT YOU'RE ALL HOPING FOR BY STAYING UP THIS LATE.

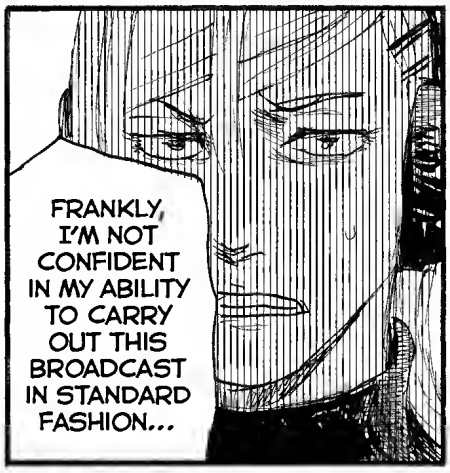
THE STORY SO FAR

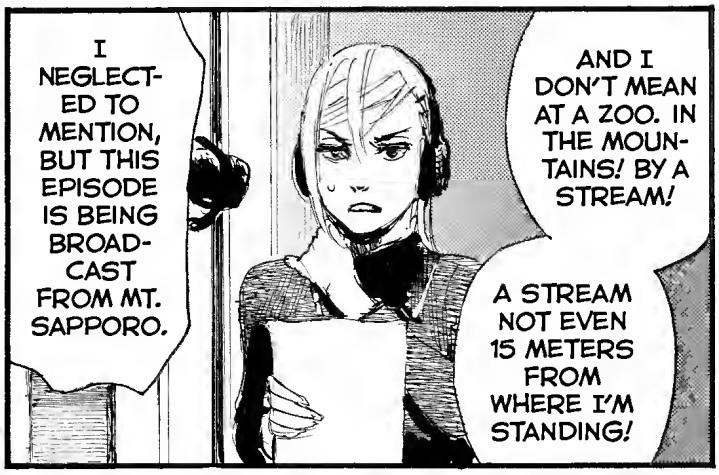
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MATO, AN FM STATION WORKER, MINARE KODA HAS MADE HER DEBUT AS A RADIO DJ. WITH HER THIRD SHOW UNDER HER BELT AND RATINGS HIGH, SHE FUMBLES WHILE TRYING TO PICK A THEME FOR HER FOURTH. AFTER HER PUBLIC SQUABBLE WITH HER FATHER FALLS FLAT, MINARE IS STUCK WITH USING ANOTHER OF MATO'S IDEAS, "LOVE CONSULTATION UNDER EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES." MEANWHILE, SCRIPT WRITER KUREKO'S TRANSITION TO A FULL-TIME NOVELIST BECOMES AN IMMEDIATE POSSIBILITY.


Well, then. Are you all aware what day October 4th is?
In doing so, Russia pulled ahead in the space race and thoroughly left the USA's pride in tatters. To think such an era existed.
Today marks the 58th anniversary of when humanity's first satellite, Sputnik I, was launched into orbit.

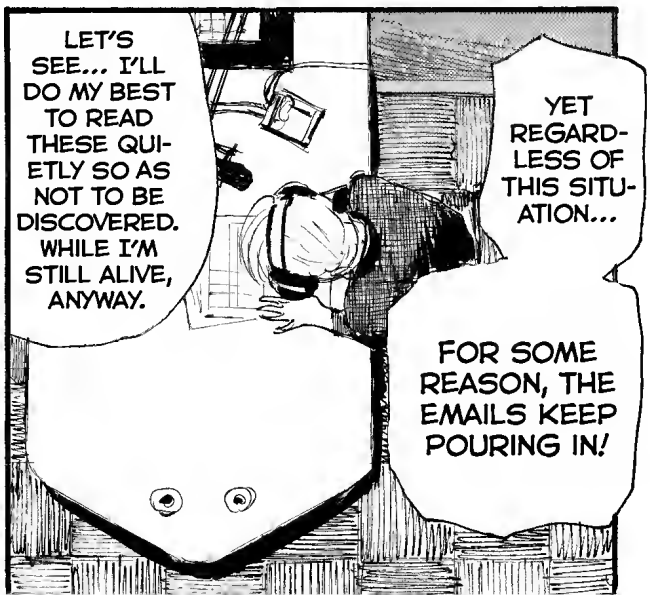
ARE YOU ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF NATIONAL ANIMALS?
"NATIONAL ANIMALS."
LITERALLY ANIMALS REPRESENTING A NATION.
UHH. SPEAKING OF RUSSIA...
FOR EXAMPLE, THE GREEN PHEASANT.
THIS IS JAPAN'S NATIONAL BIRD.
A NATIONAL BIRD IS JUST ONE SUBSET OF NATIONAL ANIMALS ANY NATION CAN HAVE.
AS FOR RUSSIA, THEIR NATIONAL ANIMAL IS THE BEAR.
AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I BELIEVE THE MASCOT FOR THE 1980 MOSCOW SUMMER OLYMPICS, AS WELL AS THE 2014 SOCHI WINTER OLYMPICS WERE BOTH BEARS.
UHH. ANYWAY...
WITH THAT LOVELY SEGUE, I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE.
AS WE SPEAK, I'M BEING STARED DOWN...
...BY A BROWN BEAR.

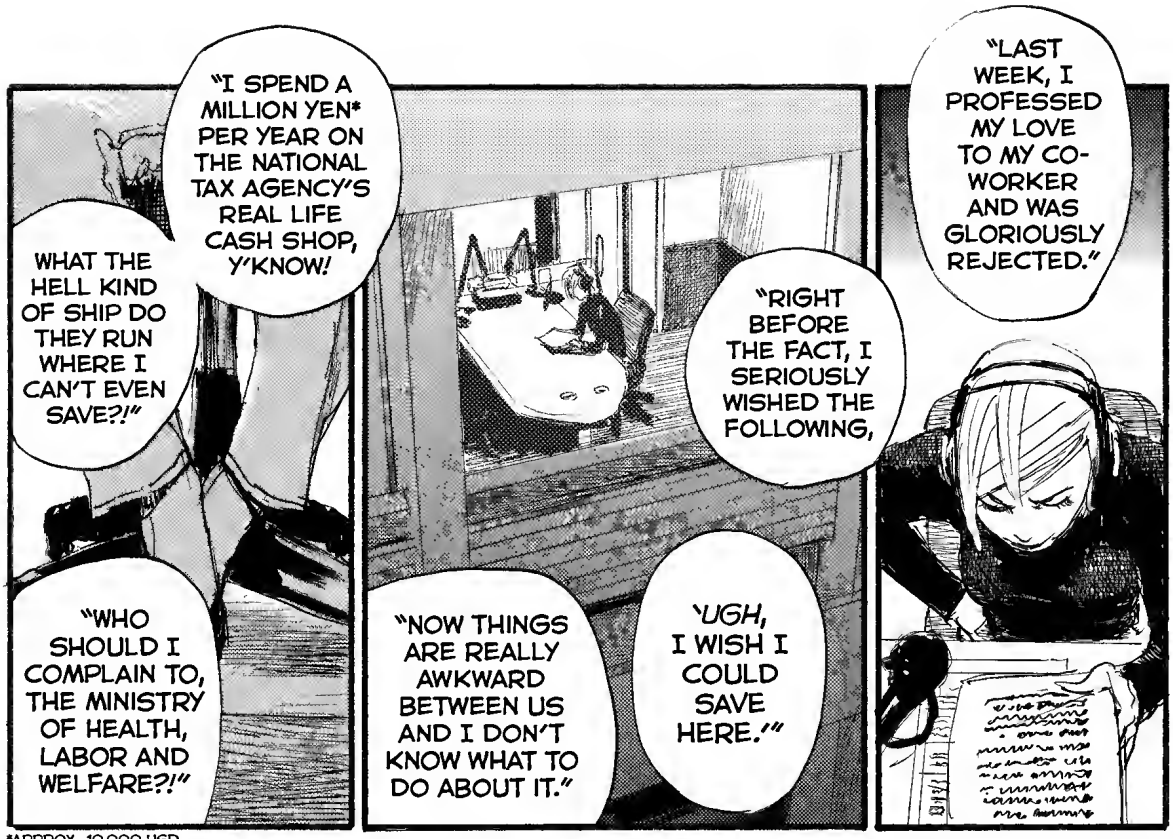
KOFF KOFF
コッ コッ
*IMAGE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES.


FRANKLY, I'M NOT CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THIS BROADCAST IN STANDARD FASHION...

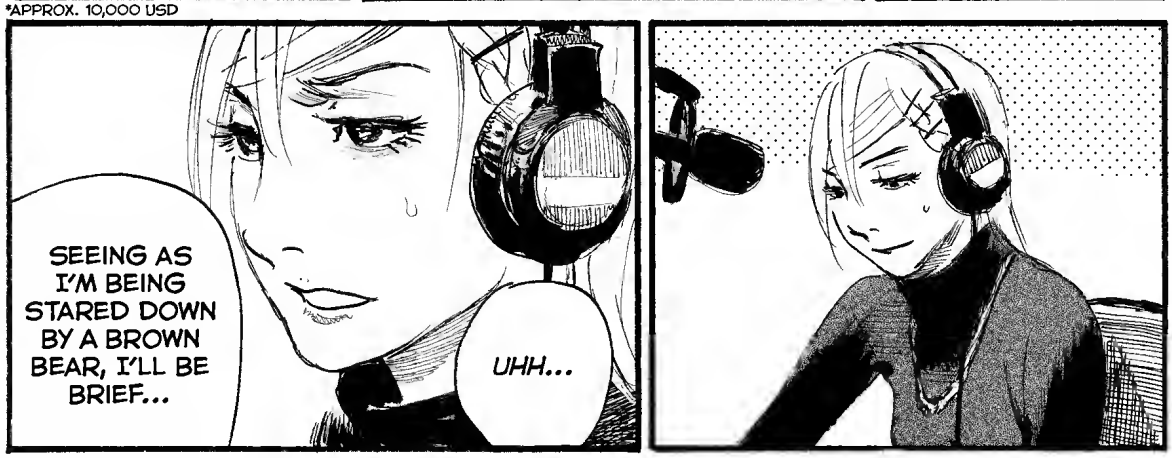

I NEGLECTED TO MENTION, BUT THIS EPISODE IS BEING BROADCAST FROM MT. SAPPORO.
AND I DON'T MEAN AT A ZOO. IN THE MOUNTAINS! BY A STREAM!
A STREAM NOT EVEN 15 METERS FROM WHERE I'M STANDING!

KOFF KOFF
I didn't know we had that kind of sound...
"Bear breath..."
I'VE BEEN LISTENING SINCE YOUR FIRST BAFFLING RADIO DRAMA."
"GOOD EVENING, MISS MINARE.


LET'S SEE... I'LL DO MY BEST TO READ THESE QUIETLY SO AS NOT TO BE DISCOVERED. WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE, ANYWAY.
YET REGARDLESS OF THIS SITUATION...
FOR SOME REASON, THE EMAILS KEEP POURING IN!


"LAST WEEK, I PROFESSED MY LOVE TO MY CO-WORKER AND WAS GLORIOUSLY REJECTED."
"RIGHT BEFORE THE FACT, I SERIOUSLY WISHED THE FOLLOWING,
'UGH, I WISH I COULD SAVE HERE.'"
"NOW THINGS ARE REALLY AWKWARD BETWEEN US AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT."
"I SPEND A MILLION YEN* PER YEAR ON THE NATIONAL TAX AGENCY'S REAL LIFE CASH SHOP, Y'KNOW!
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF SHIP DO THEY RUN WHERE I CAN'T EVEN SAVE?!"
"WHO SHOULD I COMPLAIN TO, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, LABOR AND WELFARE?!"

*APPROX. 10,000 USD



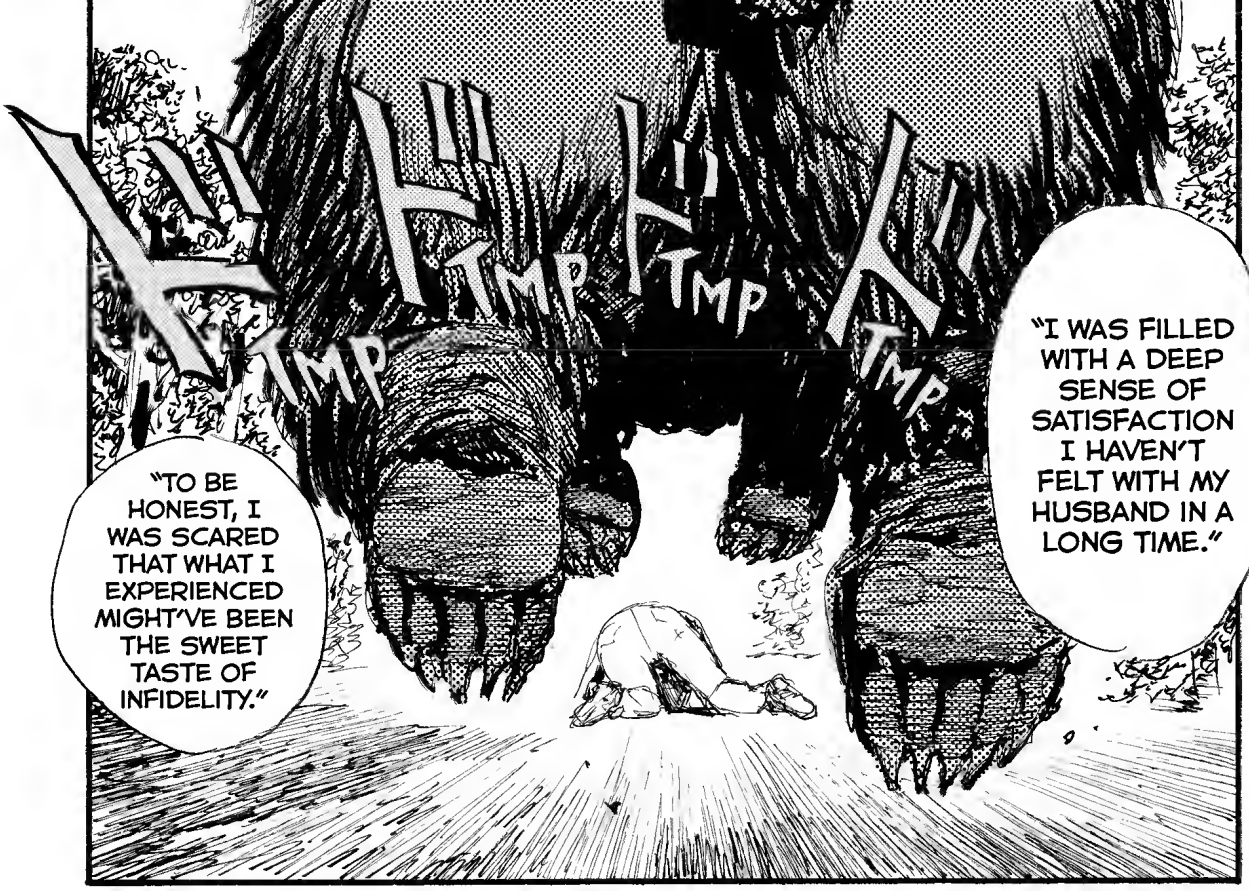
**KOTOOSHU KATSUNORI, A FORMER BULGARIA-BORN SUMO WRESTLER.

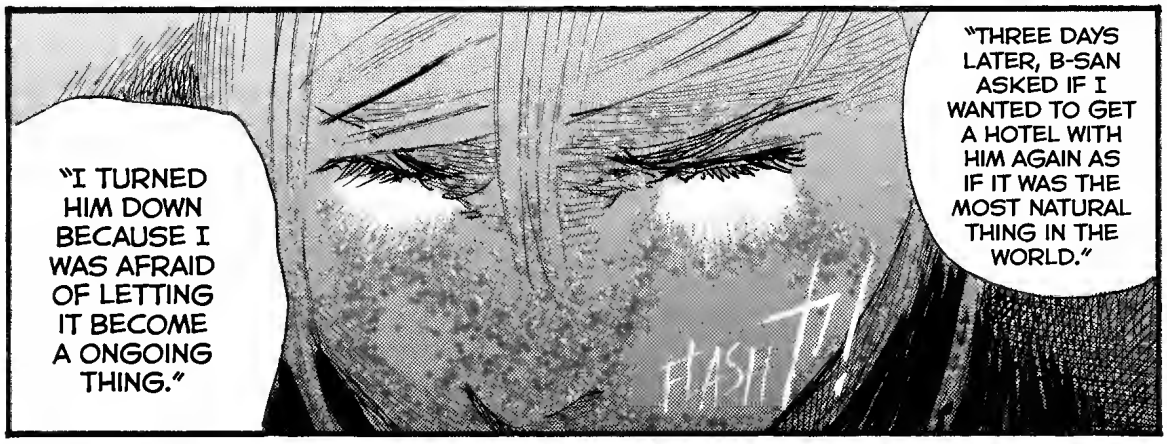
"GOOD EVENING. I'M AN UNSIGHTLY MAN ATTENDING A FASHION VOCATIONAL SCHOOL."
"THE GIRL I'M DATING HAS BEEN KIND OF... DIFFERENT LATELY."
"ALSO, SHE LAYS PATCHES OF EGGS EVERY MORNING. I'M ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIED."
"RATHER, SHE SMELLS REALLY GOOD FOR SOME REASON."
"IN FACT, BUTTERFLIES ARE DRAWN TO HER ARMPITS AND PRIVATES. BUTTERFLIES!"
"DO YOU THINK MY GIRLFRIEND IS TURNING INTO A NYMPH OR SOMETHING?"
"SHOULD I START A RELIGION?"
...UHH...
ME, BEAR, THEREFORE...
...LOOK AT KOTOOSHU'S BLOG AND SOOTHE YOUR WOUNDED SOUL.
FLAP

"I'M TIRED OF PEER PRESSURE FROM PEOPLE WHO HATE PINEAPPLE IN FOOD."
GAHHH!
UMM, LET ME REMIND YOU PEOPLE,
I'M CURRENTLY STANDING FACE TO FACE WITH A BROWN BEAR...
...AND I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I'LL LIVE THROUGH THIS BROAD-CAST!
For all I know, I could be dinner a minute from now!
Regardless, I'm trying to answer all your life's woes.
"I feel like my future is constantly covered in a fog of anxiety. Do you know where I'm coming from, Minare-san?"
You're too soft!
What are you, a soufflé doria from Hoshino Coffee?!
"AHH. MY INSIGNIFICANT EXISTENCE MIGHT BE OVER...
...BUT I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO LEAVE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MARK ON SOMEONE'S LIFE."
GIVE ME AT LEAST ONE SERIOUS QUESTION THAT'LL MAKE ME THINK THAT, PLEASE.

READ KOTOO-SHU'S BLOG.
IT'LL BRING YOU MORE COMFORT THAN MY HALF-ASSED THERAPY.
"I WAS PISSED FROM TOBACCO WITHDRAWAL AND PICKED A FIGHT WITH A MIDDLE SCHOOLER, ONLY TO GET MY ASS KICKED FOR TWO HOURS STRAIGHT. NOW BOTH MY BODY AND HEART ARE BRUISED. PLEASE HELP."
YOU'RE ONLY THAT WEAK-KNEED BECAUSE YOUR CORE IS WEAK!
PICK UP KYOKU-SHIN KARATE!
OR GET AN AIBOARD, MAYBE?
WE ONLY HAVE FIVE MINUTES LEFT, TOO...
AW, SHIT...
Kotooshu?
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
GYAHHHH!

"I'M A MARRIED OFFICE WORKER LIVING IN SAPPORO."
"HELLO, MINARE-SAN."
"26 YEARS OLD." HUH, WE'RE THE SAME AGE.
UHH. NEXT UP...
HUFF PUFF
"WE GOT CLOSER, ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER,"
"AND EVENTU-ALLY..."
"THERE IS A MARRIED MAN ONE YEAR MY SENIOR WHO WORKS ON THE SAME FLOOR AS ME. LET'S CALL HIM B-SAN."
"WE HAD SE—"
FWUMP!
"...AN AFFAIR."
"IT TURNS OUT WE'VE BOTH BEEN MARRIED FOR THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME AND ENDED UP BONDING OVER OUR PAST NEWLYWED EXPERIENCES DURING BREAK TIME."


TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
"I WAS FILLED WITH A DEEP SENSE OF SATISFACTION I HAVEN'T FELT WITH MY HUSBAND IN A LONG TIME."
"TO BE HONEST, I WAS SCARED THAT WHAT I EXPERIENCED MIGHT'VE BEEN THE SWEET TASTE OF INFIDELITY."


"THREE DAYS LATER, B-SAN ASKED IF I WANTED TO GET A HOTEL WITH HIM AGAIN AS IF IT WAS THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD."
FLASH
"I TURNED HIM DOWN BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID OF LETTING IT BECOME A ONGOING THING."

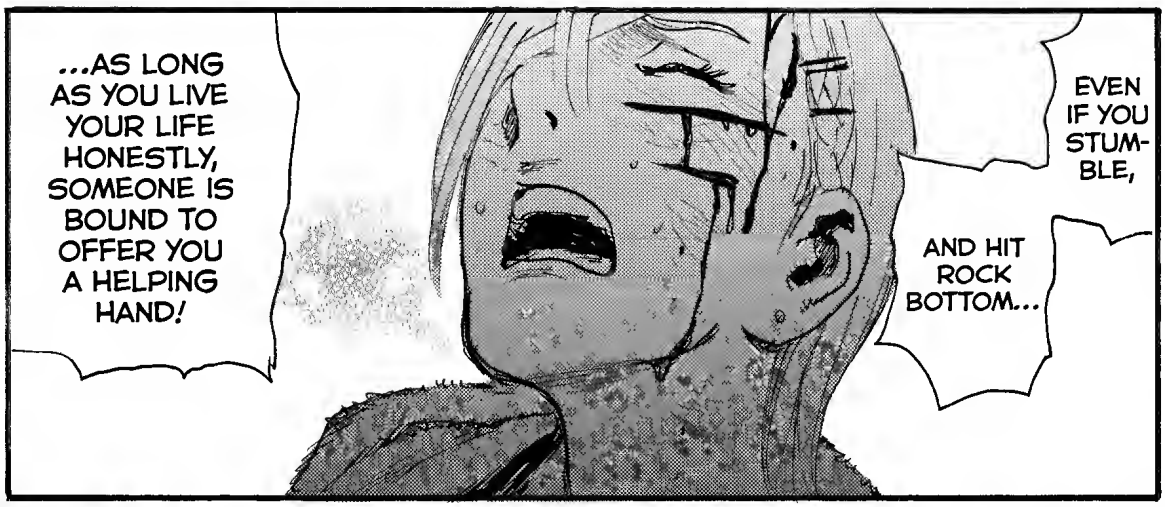
FWOOOOOOOOOOO...
OOP.
THE MOOD'S CHANGED. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET GOOD.
I ONLY GET THE FEELING THAT MIXING'S GONNA BE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
AH...

AN ATROCIOUS SHOW, AS USUAL.
WHAT'S WITH THE YELLING?
the hell?
SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE WEAK AND OUT OF BREATH WITH THE BEAR'S CHEWING SOUNDS OVER IT.
NO... I CAN SEE IT.
HAH!
OR-AHHH!
"MY HUSBAND IS A KIND, EARNEST MAN, AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LEAVING HIM,
BUT PHYSI-CALLY, I'M MORE COMPATI-BLE WITH B-SAN."
HUFF
FWOO
MINARE-SAN...
...IS FIGHTING THE BEAR.

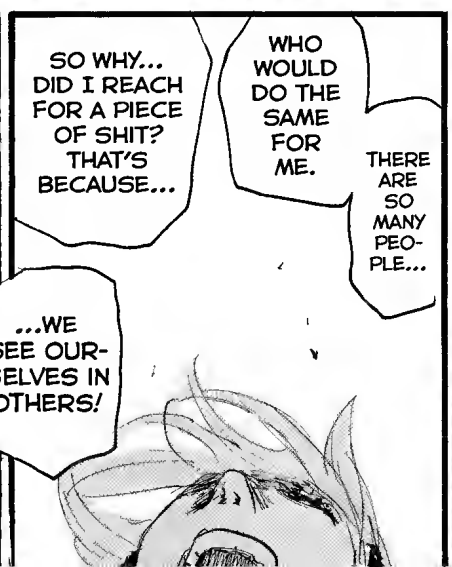
"Should I stay with my loving husband for the rest of my life?"
"Or should I let my body's urges take the wheel?"
I GAVE INTO LIBIDO...
...AND CHOSE A CUTE, BUT UNFAITHFUL MAN.
AND NOW I'M HERE FIGHTING A BEAR.
FAITHFULNESS!
NO GREATER VIRTUE EXISTS!
YOU MUST OPEN YOUR EYES!

"TYPICALLY FOR MY PRE-BED ROUTINE, I WANDER THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD WEARING NOTHING BUT A TRENCH COAT."
"I'M A 41-YEAR-OLD OFFICE WORKER. LATELY, MY BODY'S AGING HAS BE-COME APPARENT AND IT HAS ME DEPRESSED."
"HOWEVER, THE OTHER DAY, I WAS FINALLY ARRESTED DURING THE ACT. I USED TO BE ABLE TO ESCAPE NO PROBLEM IN MY THIRTIES."
"ANY-WAY..."
"WHO DO THEY THINK IS PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE?"
SE-HAH!
KAH!
...AND MY DAUGHTER TOLD ME TO DROP DEAD."
"MY WIFE HANDED ME DIVORCE PAPERS WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD...
"Minare-san, would you please give me some words of encourage-ment to put my mind at ease?"
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TWEAK A DOG'S.
OF COURSE NOT.
DO WE HAVE A SOUND FOR A HURT BEAR?
"I honestly think that I want to keep working until my daughter is an adult, even if it means being whipped the whole time."

STAY ALIVE!
WHO CARES ABOUT AGE?! ANY SANE PERSON WILL TELL YOU ANYTHING BEFORE 60 MAKES YOU A YOUNGSTER!
STAY TRUE TO YOURSELF!


...AS LONG AS YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE HONESTLY, SOMEONE IS BOUND TO OFFER YOU A HELPING HAND!
EVEN IF YOU STUM-BLE,
AND HIT ROCK BOTTOM...

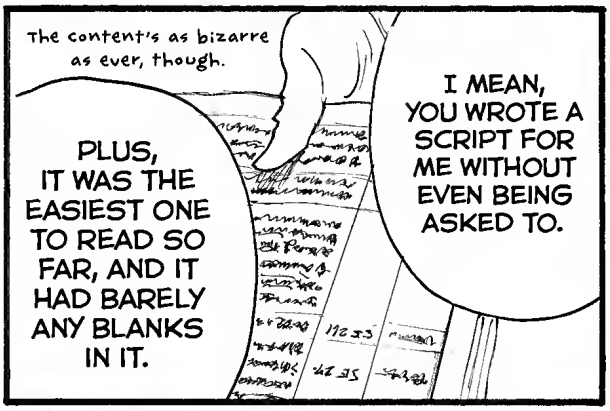
KATHUNK

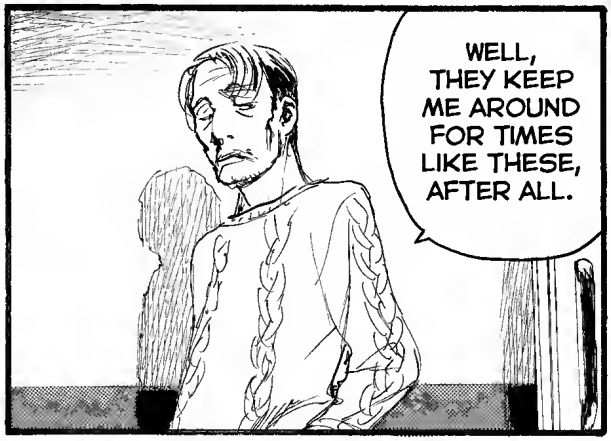

SO WHY... DID I REACH FOR A PIECE OF SHIT? THAT'S BECAUSE...
WHO WOULD DO THE SAME FOR ME.
THERE ARE SO MANY PEO-PLE...
...WE SEE OUR-SELVES IN OTHERS!

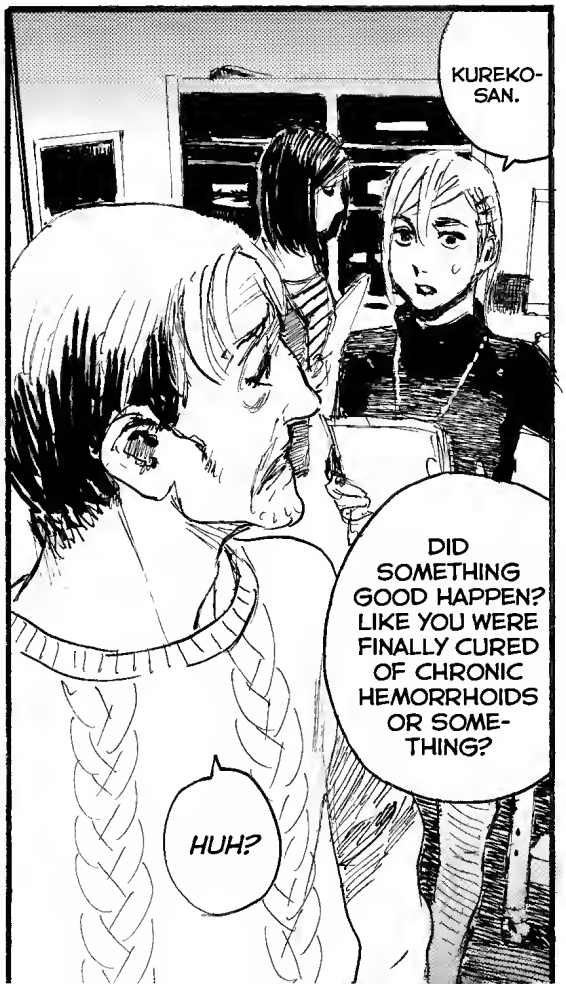
...WANT TO LIVE THAT WAY.
REALLY, I, TOO...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

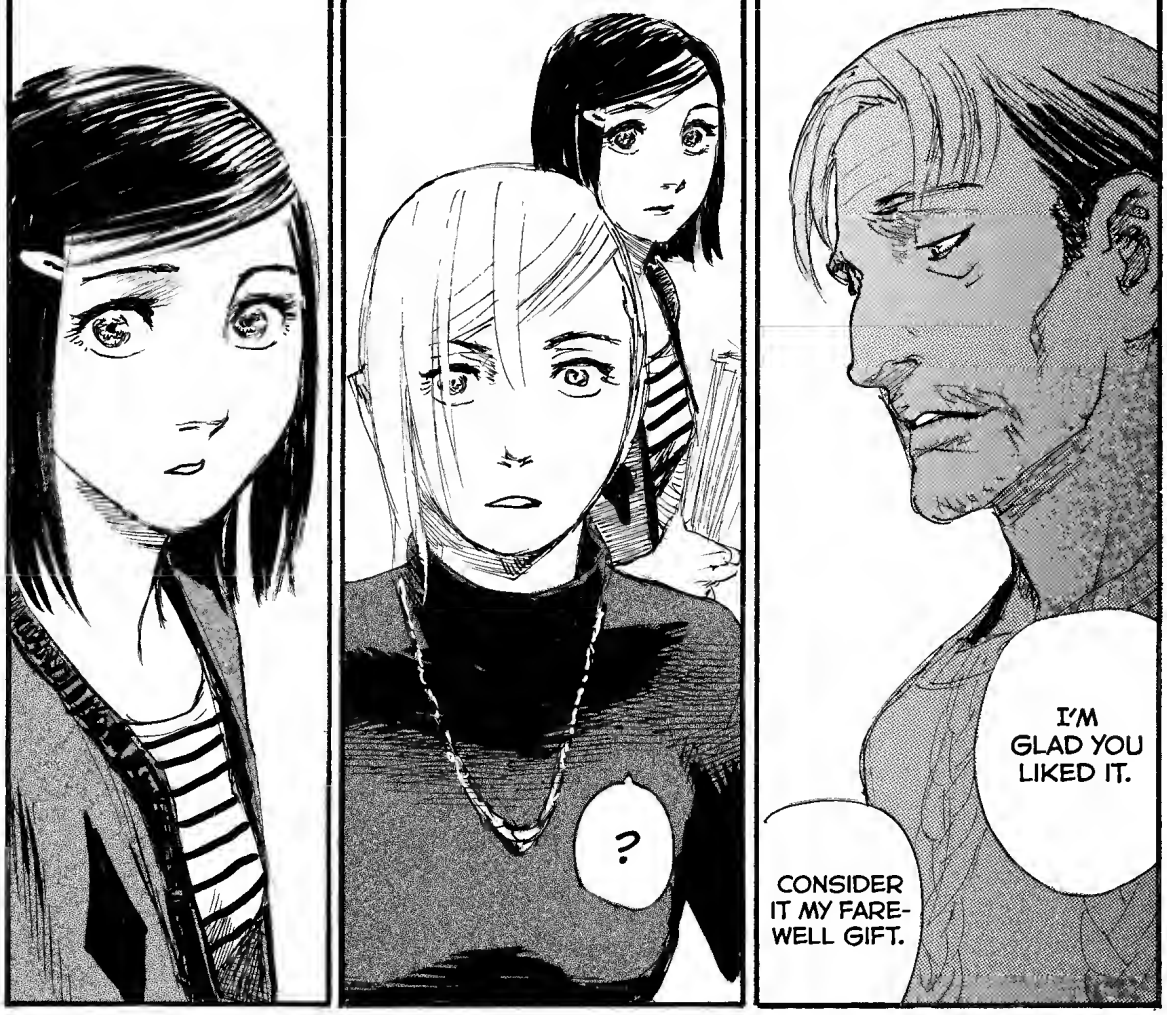
When it comes to the adlib bits, you always scrape off a little bit of your heart and serve it to the listeners, huh?
IT JUST KINDA HAPPENS...
DO YOU THINK I GET OFF ON THIS?!
WELL, WHATEVER. GOOD WORK.
COPYING DATA 100%
COPYING DATA 72%
TAK TAK TAK

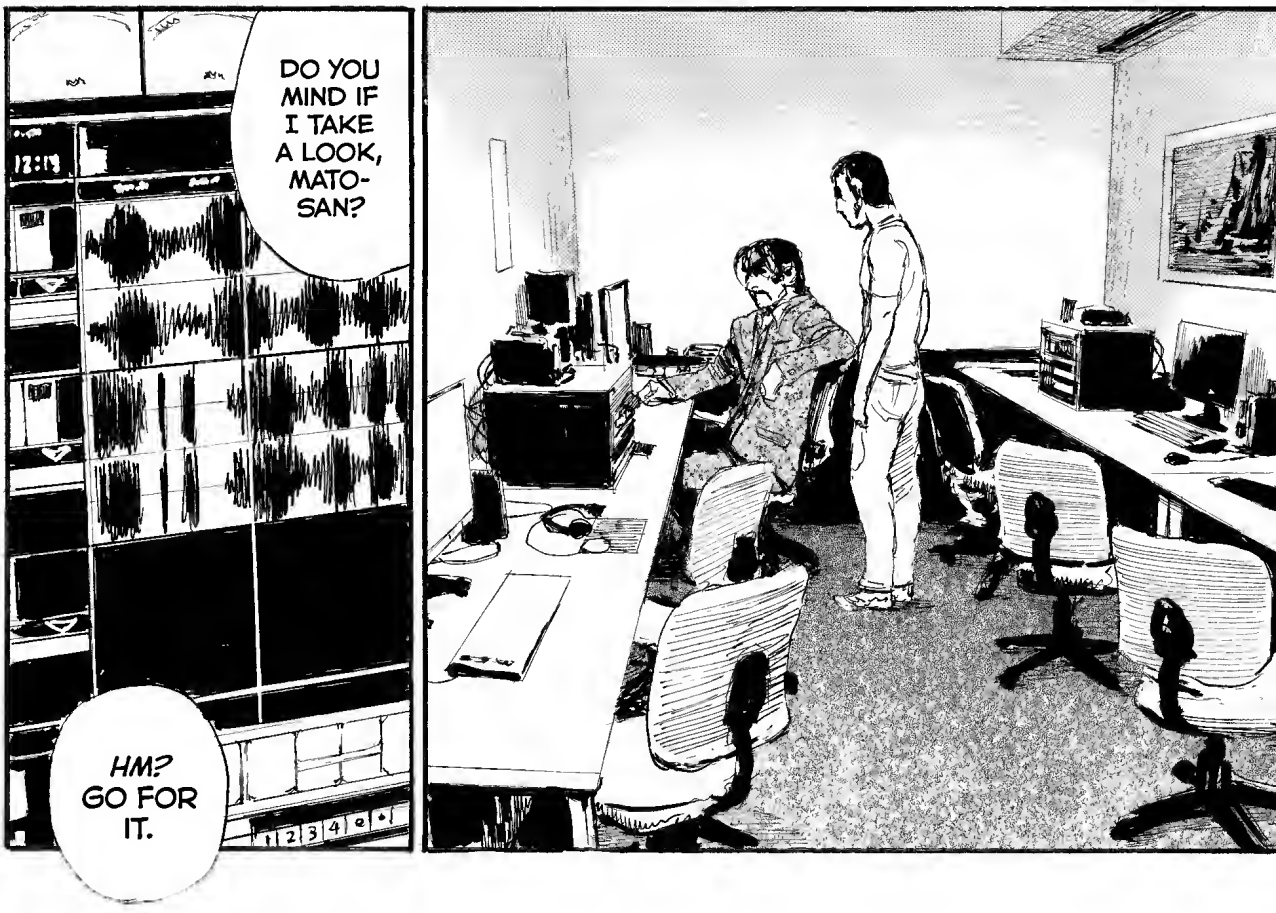
I'LL GO WITH YOU, MATO-SAN.
SOMETHING CAUGHT MY ATTENTION.
HM? SURE.


The content's as bizarre as ever, though.
I MEAN, YOU WROTE A SCRIPT FOR ME WITHOUT EVEN BEING ASKED TO.
PLUS, IT WAS THE EASIEST ONE TO READ SO FAR, AND IT HAD BARELY ANY BLANKS IN IT.

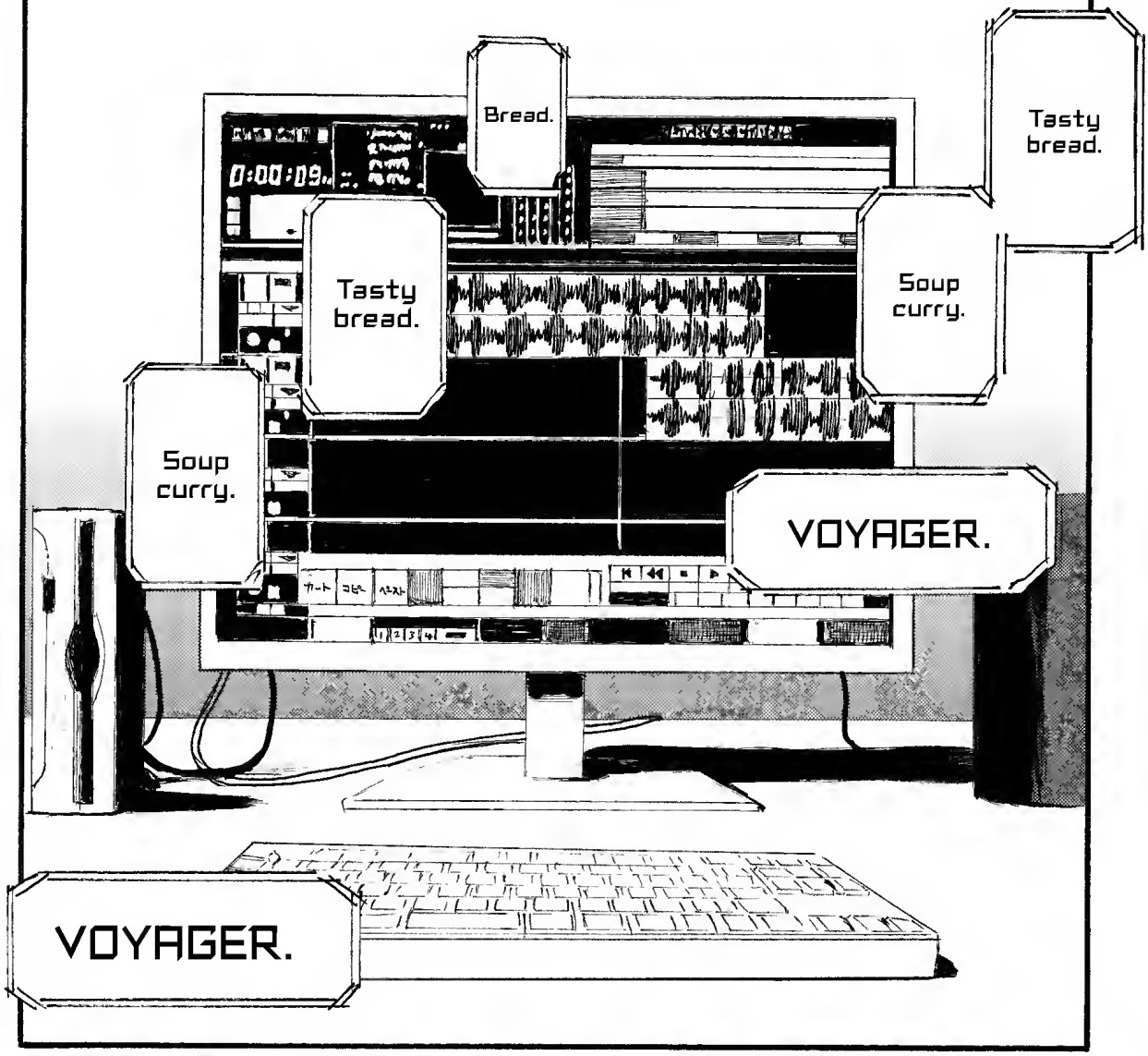

WELL, THEY KEEP ME AROUND FOR TIMES LIKE THESE, AFTER ALL.


KUREKO-SAN.
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN? LIKE YOU WERE FINALLY CURED OF CHRONIC HEMORRHOIDS OR SOME-THING?
HUH?


?
I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT.
CONSIDER IT MY FARE-WELL GIFT.


DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK, MATO-SAN?
HM? GO FOR IT.

HEY, GUY!
This is Minare Koda's *Listen to Meeheeee!*
JEITHRA! JEITHRA! LISTEN UP!
YO YO!
GENGHIS KHAN AIN'T SHIT.
LET ME JUST ISOLATE IT...
HUH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE'S ANOTHER RAP LAYERED BENEATH THIS SINGLE AT HIGH PITCH.
..ger.
Bread.
SURE, BUT I CAN GIVE YOU A LIFT IF YOU WAIT 20 MINUTES.
MIZUHO, TOO, IF THAT'S OKAY.
IS IT COOL IF I TAKE OFF NOW, MATO-SAN?
...AND LOWER THE PITCH.


Bread.
Tasty bread.
Tasty bread.
Soup curry.
Soup curry.
VOYAGER.
VOYAGER.

Soup curry...
SIGH
...WELL, SHIT.
WE CAN'T PLAY THIS ON AIR.
MATO-SAN...
THIS COUNTS AS SUBLIMINAL ADVERTIS-ING.
Tasty bread.
SON OF A BITCH...
WE GOTTA DO A RETAKE.
MINARE.

IN THE END, THE DATA FOR THE SHOW ONLY MADE IT TO MASTER CONTROL AT 3:15 AM, JUST BEFORE THE SLOT TIME. THE NEXT DAY, BOTH MATO-SAN AND MINARE WERE CHEWED OUT BY KIKUKAWA-SAN, THE STATION PRODUCER. AS OPPOSED TO THE FIRST RECORDING, IN WHICH MINARE LAID HERSELF BARE WITH UNPROMPTED ADLIB, THE SHOCK OF A SECOND RECORDING LEFT HER UNENTHUSIASTICALLY FOLLOWING KUREKO'S SCRIPT TO A T, SOLEMNLY GIVING LIFE ADVICE WHILE BEING EATEN BY A BROWN BEAR.